

March 18, 2002

Dear Congressman Fattah:

The National Head Start Association (NHSA) is happy to lend its support to your efforts to provide every child in this country with a high-quality education. In particular, your bill entitled *The Student Bill of Rights* would go a long way towards creating a more equitable and responsible school system.

As the primary organization representing the needs of the Head Start community, we understand that our children need to go to good schools. Quality schools are those that are adequately funded, have well trained and experienced teachers, and where there are small class sizes so children can learn. Children also need adequate materials and supplies to be successful. Your bill would hold public schools accountable for making sure that the children who attend these schools are provided with up-to-date textbooks and supplies, computers, and other important resources for school success.

I applaud you for your bill's emphasis on holding public school systems accountable. The quality of a child's education should not be based on where that child is living. While many suburban schools provide their children with a first-rate education, the same cannot be said of the public schools that serve low-income and minority children. Your bill would go a long way toward erasing the educational opportunity gap in this country and would provide basic fairness to an inequitable system.

I hope that as you move forward you know you can count on us for support. Once again thank you for giving me this opportunity to join with you in this important endeavor and for your continued advocacy for low-income children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah M. Greene". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Sarah M. Greene
President and CEO
National Head Start Association